

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with the background of research, statements of problem, research objective, research significance, clarification of key terms, and organization of writing.

1.1 Background of Research

Symbol can be found in human's daily life, besides it can be found in literature. Literature is written works such as fiction, poetry, drama and criticism that are recognized as having important or permanent artistic value. The literature itself is a creation, and not an imitation (Hartoko, 1982: 5).

Furthermore in human life also consists of many signs, including human's work such as, culture, custom, rule, and moral. Besides society's phenomenon can be recognized as a sign. Peirce argues, "sign is something which stands to somebody for something in some respects or capacity." As it will be seen, a sign can stand for something else to somebody only because this 'standing for' relation is immediate by the interpretant (in Eco, 1979: 15).

Peirce also divides three classes of sign based on the relation between sign and its reference, an icon, an index, and a symbol. (1) An icon functions as a sign by means of inherent similarities, or shared features, with what it signifies examples are the similarity of portrait to the person it depicts, or the similarity of a map to the geographical area it stands for. (2) An index is a sign, which bears a

natural relation of cause or effect to what it signifies, thus, smoke is a sign indicating fire, and pointing weathervane indicates the direction of the wind. (3) A symbol is anything, which signifies something, in this sense, all words are symbols (in Abrams, 1985: 206).

In the symbol (or in a less ambiguous term, the “sign proper”), the relation between the signifying item and what it signifies is not a natural one, but entirely a matter of social convention. The gesture of shaking hands, for example, in some cultures is a conventional sign of greeting or parting, and red traffic light conventionally signifies “stop!” The major and most complex examples of this third type of purely conventional sign, however, are the words that constitute a language (Abrams, 1985: 275-276). From those three classes of signs, symbol is the most superior because it has a function of thought, imagination, and sense (Nurgiyantoro, 2002: 42).

In discussing literature, the term symbol applies only to the words or phrases that signify an object or event, which in its turn signify something, or have a range of reference, beyond them (Abrams, 1985: 206). In thesis entitled *Symbol of the Relationship between Man and Nature in Ernest Hemingway's The Old Man and the Sea*, by Rahayu (2009) stated that, Symbol can represent an object, idea, or a relationship. It can symbolize anything depend on the context of the text. Symbol may represent the relationship between man and nature. Man is an adult male human being. As a human being, a man cannot stand alone. On the other words, he needs a relationship with the others, such as with the other human, even with nature.

Nature is the physical world including all natural phenomena and living things. In a broader sense, nature is the entire universe, including human society. In a narrow sense, it is often juxtaposed with human society through it actually refers simply to the world excluding human society. Therefore, as far as space is concerned, human society is up to now far of the earth, which is extremely small, whereas nature includes the earth and the immense universe outside of earth, which is boundless (Gaspari, Antonio 2008, in www.zenit.org/article-23370?1).

According to Frye, “symbol, means any unit of any literary structure that can be isolated for critical attention. A word, a phrase, or an image used with some kind of special reference is all symbols when they are distinguishable elements in critical analysis” (Frye, 1975: 71). Whatever is written in the form of a text could be as symbol and it may signify different meaning in every different work. When a word, a phrase, or an image in a work that is possible to be symbols, it encounters a process of constructing meaning and the theme.

The reason of choosing this problem is the novel entitled *Life of Pi*, there are many symbols contained within. First, from the title itself “*Life*” of “*Pi*” are two separated distinctions that have no natural relationship at all. Therefore, the title itself must be a symbol. The intrinsic elements like the characters and the setting are also the symbols of the novel. The characters of an man; Pi and setting as the natural as the natural things like the sea.

Based on the background above, the researcher is interested to analyze the symbols in Yann Martel’s *Life of Pi* that related with the point of the relationship between man and nature in a narrow sense, in which it is often

juxtaposed with human society through it actually refers simply to the world excluding human society. Finally, for that reason, this research entitled “*The Symbol of Man and Nature in Yann Martel’s Life of Pi*”.

1.2 Statement of Problem

To find out the main problem of this research is the analysis of symbol in Yann Martel’s *Life of Pi* that represents of the relationship between man and nature. Based on the background above, the problem of this research is formulated into some questions:

1. What category of symbols, which is used as the representation of man and nature in Yann Martel’s *Life of Pi*?
2. Based on Frye’s theory, in which phase are symbols of man and nature included?

1.3 Research Objective

The objective of this research are:

1. To identify category of symbol used as the representation of man and nature in Yann Martel’s *Life of Pi*.
2. To find out the phase of symbols of man and nature presented based on Frye’s theory.

1.4 Research Significance

The significance of this research, is a challenge in improving the comprehension of literary study and also this research gives new understanding about the symbol in literature because the researcher is interested to analyze symbol. Academically, this research is directed to the students of literary subject or the reader in general, and literary society especially, for further analysis. Furthermore, this research is a reference for those who are interested in enriching the literary knowledge.

1.5 Clarification of Key Terms

To avoid misconception in conceiving the terms in this research, the researcher makes clarification of key terms to explain some words:

1. **Symbol** : term for “object” in a literary text which transcend their material meaning; it is possible to distinguish between conventional symbols (which are commonly known) and private symbols (which are created by an author for a particular text), (Klarer, 2004: 150).
2. **Symbol** : is anything which signifies something. It is applied only to a word or phrase that signifies an object or events which in its turn signifies something, or has a range of reference, beyond it (Abrams, 1985: 311).
3. **Novel** : is a long narrative story of life, its fiction or non-fiction, which made in one printed.

4. **Phase** : is stage of development. A clearly distinguishable period or stage in a process, in the development of something, or in a sequence of events (Frye, 1975: 71).
5. **Literal and Descriptive Phase** : is phase which consider symbol as motif when symbol is applied centripetally; and consider symbol as sign when symbol is applied centrifugally (Frye, 1975: 73).
6. **Formal Phase** : is phase which consider symbol as image. Image here is an imitation of nature shifted from a reflection or external nature to a formal organization of which nature was the content (Frye, 1975: 84).
7. **Mythical Phase** : is phase which consider symbol as archetype. This phase is like an idea of symbol as something that repeats it throughout the body of literature is emphasized. Literary works are regarded as imitations of other works more than of nature (Frye, 1975: 102).
8. **Anagogic Phase** : is phase which consider symbol as monad. This phase describe as imitation of infinite social action and infinite human thought, the mind of a man who is all men, the universal creative word which is all words (Frye, 1975: 119).

1.6 Organization of Writing

This paper consists of five chapters and it will be described as follows:

Chapter I: The first chapter is introduction. Which consisting of background of research, statements of problem, purpose and significance of the research, clarification of key terms, and organization of writing.

Chapter II: The second chapter is theoretical foundation. This chapter reviews theories underlying and supporting the research including: a) the theory of symbol include; theory of symbol, theory of symbol in literature, and Frye's theory of symbol, b) the description of the novel titled, *Life of Pi* including; *Life of Pi* (the novel), Yann Martel's biography and work, and synopsis *Life of Pi*.

Chapter III: The third chapter is research methodology. This chapter elaborates methodology of this research including; the research method, the data, sources of data, the technique of collecting data, the technique of analyzing data, and the categorization of data analysis.

Chapter IV: The fourth chapter is data analysis and discussion. Provides data representation and discussion based on Frye's theory of symbol.

Chapter V: The fifth chapter is conclusion and suggestion. This final chapter provides the conclusion of the whole analysis and suggestion for better understanding.